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SUBJ: MOZAMBIQUE: USG-FUNDED ANTI-TIP LEGISLATION  
INITIATIVE GRABS NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

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**¶1.** (U) On May 13, the country's largest daily splashed the front-page headline "More than 1000 People Trafficked Annually" as part of its coverage of the May 11 trafficking-in-persons (TIP) meeting convened in Maputo by members of civil society. The TIP stakeholders, led by a network or civil society organizations called Rede CAME (Network Against the Abuse of Minors), met with a representative of the USG-funded Women's Legal Rights Initiative (WLRI) to discuss in detail the recently signed memorandum of understanding committing the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to draft a comprehensive anti-trafficking-in-persons law by the end of August 2006. During the half-day meeting, civil society members insisted that the future law include broad victims' assistance and protection provisions, including a privacy act, voluntary - not forced - repatriation, unlimited medical aid and psychological counseling, and financial assistance.

**¶2.** (U) Carlos Manjate, chairman of Rede CAME, will press these points again on Tuesday, May 16, when he and other TIP stakeholders meet with Minister of Justice Esperanca Machavela, who plans to introduce them to USG-paid legal consultants on the drafting team. After this initial meeting, the MOJ has said its TIP legislation committee will continue to convene meetings with key members of civil society twice a month to ensure the draft law includes the voice of the Mozambican people. As part of the same initiative, the USG will also fund Mozambican civil society and MOJ meetings with the South African Legal Reform committee to discuss South Africa's approach to drafting an anti-TIP law. Plans are also being developed to knit together a tighter regional network of Southern African civil society organizations fighting the growing TIP problem, which is compounded by the region's rising prevalence of AIDS, AIDS orphans and child labor (according to the latest ILO report).

**¶3.** (SBU) COMMENT: The published timeline for the drafting of the anti-TIP law is admittedly quite ambitious, but key players such as Carlos Manjate and Angela Abdula (local head of the WLRI) remain optimistic that a draft law can be ready by the end of August. If that draft law can be properly vetted to the public - as required by Mozambican law - in the intervening months between completion of the draft and the reconvening of the spring session of Parliament in October, there is a slim possibility that the anti-TIP legislation may appear on Parliament's agenda before the

conclusion of 2006. A combination of increasing news coverage with bold headlines, the personal involvement of political heavyweights such as Graca Machel (widow of former President Samora Machel and current wife of Nelson Mandela), the continued assertive intervention of civil society, and quiet, behind-the-scenes pressure from the diplomatic and donor community should continue driving progress on the issue.

La Lime